

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The claims have not been modified in this response to the Final Office Action. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-16, 18-22 and 27-35 are present for examination.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6 through 8, 10 through 12, 15 through 21, 27, 28, and 30 through 32 as anticipated by **Long** (EP Publication No. 0,621,563). While the Examiner's comments are not fully understood, it appears that some of the same claims (as well as the remaining pending claims 9, 13, 14, 22, 29 and 33 through 35) were rejected as being unpatentable over **Delfer, III** (U.S. Patent No. 5,264,665) in view of **Long**.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the pending claims in light of the comments herein.

Applicants' independent claim 1 recite a combination of elements, including "printing at the system an identifier on one of the components forming the mailing unit after that one of the components has been provided to the system, wherein the identifier may be used in identifying the components of the mailing unit" and "reading the identifier to determine the components of the mailing unit". Such limitations are not shown or suggested by **Long** or **Delfer, III**, either alone or as combined by the Examiner.

**Long** shows a mailing system where information is printed on a web of paper 14, after the web of paper is provided to the system. However, such information (which the Examiner refers to as an "identifier") is not printed for purposes of being subsequently read to determine the components of the mailing unit. Rather, the information (name, address and other information) is printed on the web of paper 14 for purposes of producing a letter or similar insert (see, e.g., col. 6, lines 15 through 23 of **Long**).

There is, in fact, an identifier in **Long** that is used to determine the components of the mailing unit. However, that identifier is the data record stored on each credit card 32, which identifier is necessarily printed (or stored ) on the credit card before the card is provided to the system (in this connection, see col. 3, lines 5 through 8, and col. 5, lines 42 through 49 of **Long**).

Simply stated, in **Long** the identifier used for subsequently determining mail inserts is printed or stored on an insert (card) before the insert is provided to the system.

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Examining Group

PATENT

Applicants' invention eliminates the need for the identifier (data record) to be printed before the insert is supplied to the system, and thus permits the identifier to be printed on an insert (and to be subsequently read) after placed in the system.

**Delfer, III** shows a system for electronically storing weight information concerning mail inserts, and using that stored information as part of a postal qualification and mailing process. But **Delfer, III** likewise does not show printing an identifier on an insert after provided to the mailing system, and subsequently reading the printed identifier to determine the components of the mailing unit, as in Applicants' invention.

Since each of Applicants' independent claims (both method and apparatus) recite the limitations referenced above, each is believed clearly allowable over **Long** and **Delfer, III**. Likewise, since each of the pending dependent claims include those limitations as well as additionally recited limitations, such dependent claims are likewise believed allowable.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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